

QUICK-CHANGE WATCHBANDS

Reference to Related Applications

This application incorporates the subject matter and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Nos. 60/254,988 and 60/254,993, both filed on December 12, 2000, and 60/256,615, filed on December 19, 2000.

Background and Summary of the Invention

This invention relates generally to watchbands and, more particularly, to a watchband that may be easily installed or removed from a watchcase.

Prior art watchbands are difficult to replace in that doing so typically requires removal and reinstallation of a watchcasing pin on each side of a watchcasing. This technique is cumbersome for those who wish to utilize the various designer watchbands that are available today in order to coordinate them with other wardrobe items and may, therefore, need to change watchbands on at least a daily basis. In addition, many prior art watchbands are limited to attachment to certain watches.

It would be advantageous to provide watchbands, in accordance with various embodiments of the present invention, that may be quickly and easily installed on a watch of the wearer's choice and that may just as easily be removed and replaced with another watchband to provide color and style coordination with other items of the wearer's chosen wardrobe.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

Referring now to Figure 1, there is shown a watchcasing 10 having conventional watchcasing pins 12, 14 at either end thereof. One piece 16 of a two-piece watchband is threaded through watchcasing 10 behind watchcasing pin 12. A hook and loop fastener surface 15 is provided on the underside of the end of watchband piece 16 that is threaded around watchcasing pin 12 to adjust the length thereof. An optional security device 18 that is adapted to slide over watchband piece 16 may be provided to retain it in the position to which it was set by the hook and loop fastener material 15. A second piece 20 of the two-piece watchband is similarly threaded through watchcasing 10 behind watchcasing pin 14, adjusted to a desired length by means of a hook and loop fastener surface 21, and secured in the position to which it was adjusted by means of an optional second slideable security device 22. The free ends of the two pieces 16, 20 of the two-piece watchband may be terminated in any of a number of conventional fasteners, not illustrated, such as buckles, snaps, clasps, etc., to secure the watchband and watchcasing 10 attached thereto to the wearer's wrist.

Referring now to Figure 2, there is shown a second embodiment of the present invention in which a one-piece watchband 40 is threaded behind watchcasing pins 12, 14 and behind watchcasing 10. A pair of security devices 42, 44, provided on watchband 40 on either side of watchcasing 10 serve to hold watchband 40 in a desired position and prevent it from moving with respect to watchcasing 10. The free ends of watchband 40 may be terminated in any of a

number of conventional fasteners, not illustrated, to secure watchband 40 and watchcasing 10 to the wearer's wrist.

Referring now to Figure 3, there is shown a third embodiment of the present invention in which pieces 32, 34 of a two-piece watchband are provided with hinged clip members 36, 38, respectively, on ends thereof that are to be attached to watchcasing 10. Clip members 36, 38 are positioned behind watchcasing pins 12, 14, respectively, and then secured to watchband pieces 32, 34 by means of bands 52, 54 that are adapted to slide along watchband pieces 32, 34, respectively. The free ends of the watchband pieces 32, 34 may be terminated, like the two-piece watchband of Figure 1 and the one-piece watchband of Figure 1, in any one of a number of conventional fasteners to secure watchcasing 10 to the wearer's wrist.

FIG. 3